



# Easton Meets All Water Quality Standards & Requirements

Since 1914, Easton Utilities has been dedicated to providing clean, clear, healthy water in plentiful supply. On a schedule established by the Maryland Department of the Environment, Easton Utilities carefully monitors your water quality with a comprehensive series of tests.

In 2017, Easton's water passed all of those tests and meets all standards and requirements. This summary report outlines your water quality and the ways in which it is tested.

The full detailed report is available on our website at [www.eastonutilities.com](http://www.eastonutilities.com).



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## 2018 WATER QUALITY REPORT

### What does the Water Quality Table tell me?

The table below includes the results of our water quality analysis. Every regulated contaminant detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goal for public health (MCLG), the amount detected, and the usual sources of contamination.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

#### Regulated Contaminants

Lead and Copper	Date(s) Sampled	MCLG (Goal)	Action Level	90th Percentile	# Sites Major Over AL*	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2017	1.3	1.3	0.23	0	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2017	0	0.015	0	0	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems

\*30 sites sampled in Easton every 3 years

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Date(s) Sampled	Highest Level* Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG (Goal)	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2017	0.8	0.7 - 0.8	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2017	1	0 - 3.7	No goal for the total	60	ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2017	4	0 - 7.8	No goal for the total	80	ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection

\*Not all sample results may have been used by MDE for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Inorganic Contaminants	Date(s) Sampled	Highest Level* Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG (Goal)	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	11/2015	5*	0 - 5	0	10	ppb	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronic production wastes
Barium	11/2015	0.0164*	0.0164 - 0.0164	2	2	ppm	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2017	2.65*	0.748 - 2.65	4	4	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)**	11/16 & 1/18	0	0	10	10	ppm	NO	Fertilizer runoff, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits

\*Source from Well #10 which was permanently removed from service on 3/26/17.

\*\*NITRATE SAMPLES COLLECTED AT EACH WATER SOURCE ON 11/16/16 AND 1/18. ALL RESULTS WERE AT "NON-DETECTABLE" LEVELS. The highest Nitrate level recorded since 1996 was 1.08 mg/L (2014).

#### Violation Table

Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)

Infants below the age of 6 months who drink water containing IN EXCESS of the MCL of 10 mg/L could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

Violation Type	Monitoring Period Begin	Monitoring Period End	Violation Explanation
Monitoring, Routine Major	1/1/2017	12/31/2017	As reported above, our water sources tested "non-detectable" for Nitrate. A scheduling error is the reason for this violation since the 2017 sample was collected on 01/05/2018, five days after the monitoring period ended.

Radioactive Contaminants	Date(s) Sampled	Highest Level* Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG (Goal)	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	2017	6.4	6.4 - 6.4	0	50	pCi/L	NO	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

Volatile Organic Contaminants	Date(s) Sampled	Highest Level* Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG (Goal)	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Dichloromethane	2017	0.52*	0 - 0.52	0	5	ppb	NO	Discharge from pharmaceuticals and chemical factories

\*Source from Well #10 which was permanently removed from service on 3/26/17.

#### Unregulated Contaminants

	Date(s) Sampled	Highest Level* Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG (Goal)	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Calcium	3/2013	4.9	3.0 - 4.9	NA	NA	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for corrosion control
Chloride	3/2013	14.7	0.5 - 14.7	NA	NA	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorate	1/2014	78	0 - 78	NA	NA	ppb	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness	3/2013	22.1	15.3 - 22.1	NA	NA	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Iron	2017	0.19	0.01 - 0.19	NA	NA	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium	3/2013	2.4	1.4 - 2.4	NA	NA	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	10/2015	0.0045	0 - 0.0045	NA	NA	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	10/2015	150	26 - 150	NA	NA	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Strontium	1/2014	220	160 - 220	NA	NA	ppb	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	10/2012	18	13 - 18	NA	NA	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits

All water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to have to contain at least small amounts of certain contaminants. For any contaminant that is detectable at any level, the EPA requires water systems to report specific information. The chart above indicates the contaminants found in the Easton water system, the level detected, and the amount relative to EPA standards and goals. Of the contaminants detected, none are at levels that exceed EPA standards or goals.

## What should immuno-compromised people know about water?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than others. Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, those who have had organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants may be at risk from infections.

If you are immuno-compromised, seek advice about drinking water from your health care provider. EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on how to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (800) 426-4791.

## What about lead in the water?

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Easton Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## What about the fluoride level?

Easton Utilities does not add fluoride to its water. Some of our wells have low levels of fluoride that occur naturally, most of our water sources do not have naturally occurring fluoride. The water from the wells with fluoride is blended with the water from wells that do not have fluoride, reducing the fluoride concentration in the distribution system. Fluoride levels in the distribution system have been recorded at 0.951 mg/L and below. See our special fluoride notice (included with this report) for additional information about fluoride in our water, and potential health impacts.

## Supplemental Information for our Customers Regarding Fluoride in Easton's Drinking Water

The Town of Easton is supplied with drinking water by five groundwater wells. Two of the five wells are approximately 1,200 feet deep and three of the wells are 1,000 feet deep. Compared to many other wells used for water supplies, these wells have a very high degree of protection from man-made contamination. As a result, the chemical constituents in the water provided by these wells are naturally occurring.

Fluoride is a naturally occurring substance in groundwater. Between January 1 and March 26, 2017, one of Easton's wells produced water with fluoride levels between 2 and 4 milligrams per liter (mg/l). The maximum fluoride level measured at this well (#10) in 2017 was 2.65 mg/L. Well #10 was permanently removed from service on March 26, 2017. In 2017, before Well #10 was removed from service, the water produced from that source was minimal and accounted for less than 0.1 percent of the total water produced by all wells during the first three months of 2017.

In March 2017, Easton Utilities conducted sampling and testing of the drinking water for fluoride concentration at 15 locations throughout the town. The sample locations were selected to provide a representative cross section of our water distribution network. The level of fluoride in these samples ranged from less than 0.5 mg/L to 0.951 mg/L.

Because it is possible that some customers could on a rare occasion have received water that contained a fluoride concentration of greater than 2 mg/l, we are required by the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to provide all of the customers with this official public notice.

## Drinking Water Warning

### *Elevated Fluoride Levels Detected*

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system (Easton) has had Fluoride concentrations of between 0.748 mg/l to 2.65 mg/l, with the highest levels anticipated when Easton's former stand-by well (#10), located west of Easton Parkway on Glenwood Ave. was operated.

Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.

Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/l of fluoride (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/l of fluoride, but we're required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 mg/l because of this cosmetic dental problem.

Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses.) You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Easton Utilities, State Water System ID #: MD0200003. Date distributed: 6/1/2018

*For more information, please call Easton Utilities at 410-822-6110 or visit [www.eastonutilities.com](http://www.eastonutilities.com).*